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A DIFFERENT KIND OF BUTTERFLY CATCHER. — A friend knowing my interest in butterflies has passed me a copy of an article appearing in the 8th January, 1978 issue of *Free China Weekly*, from which the following is an extract:

"Shih Tien-ting, a native of Chaochow, Pingtung, is a different kind of butterfly catcher. Instead of chasing after butterflies, they come to him. It is therefore not surprising that Shih has caught the largest number of butterflies in Taiwan in the past 30 years as a professional catcher with a personal record of 120,000 in a single day. Shih estimates he catches about 1 million to 2 million butterflies caught in Taiwan. He declines to reveal the secret of his success, however. Shih usually sells his catch to Yu Wen-chung, who owns the largest butterfly processing plant in the world, with an annual capacity of 10 million specimens. Shih said he is careful to release rare specimens and female butterflies of all species."

The idea of a butterfly processing plant sounds appalling — and presumably there are more than just the one referred to in the article. Can the butterfly population withstand depredation on such a gigantic scale? — G. G. BALDWIN, 22 Edgerton Grove Road, Huddersfield, HD1 5QX.

CERURA VINULA L. COCOON ON WALL. — In late July 1977 I found two larvae of *Cerura vinula* L. on the willow tree in our front garden. One larva was removed, but the other was left on the foliage. In late August I searched for the cocoon on the willow, but without success. In the autumn I found the cocoon on the brick wall surrounding our back garden. It was situated eight centimetres from the top edge of the wall, and placed facing north on a vertical band of mortar between two red bricks. The sides of the cocoon overlap the nearest edges of the two bricks. The larva used the mortar between the bricks to make its cocoon. The cocoon though protuberant is well camouflaged in colour. — A. H. DOBSON, 1 Halden Close, Romsey, Hants.